

The Wethersfield Historic District Commission held a Public Hearing on September 22, 2009 at the Wethersfield Town Hall, Town Manager's Conference Room – First Floor, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, Connecticut.

Members Present: Robert Garrey, Chairperson  
John Maycock, Vice Chairperson, Clerk Pro Tem, Left at 8:20, Returned at 8:30  
Susan O'Brien  
Michael Rell  
Bette Botticello, Alternate  
Mark Raymond, Alternate

Members Absent: Gary McLeod, Clerk

Also Present: Kristin Stearley, Historic District Coordinator

Commissioner Garrey called the meeting to order at 7:30PM, and read the opening comments. Commissioner Maycock, Clerk Pro Tem, read the Legal Notice as it appeared in the *Hartford Courant* on September 11, 2009.

**APPLICATION NO. 3735-09.** Anthony and Ann Bascetta seeking to replace the existing fence with a 6' cedar panel fence at 36 Northbrick Lane.

Anthony and Ann Bascetta of 36 Northbrick Lane appeared before the commission. Mrs. Bascetta explained that she would like to replace the existing fence with a new fence and expand it as shown on the plot plan which will include the addition of two (2) gates, one single and one double. She would like to install a 6' straight flat board fence with scallops on the gates. Mrs. Bascetta's preference for materials would be beige vinyl but she would also consider cedar.

Commissioner Garrey asked whether there was anyone else wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

**APPLICATION NO. 3736-09.** Aspen Contracting seeking to replace the aluminum siding with vinyl siding at 168 Hartford Avenue.

B. J. Shalas and James McElroy of Aspen Contracting, Inc. 161 Mill Street Berlin and Judi Safran of 170 Hartford Avenue appeared before the commission. Ms. Safran explained that the existing aluminum siding was damaged in the tornado and she would like to replace it with vinyl. The siding will be in Russet Red with a 4" reveal and the corner posts to match. The trim will be wrapped in white aluminum and the shutters will be black,

Commissioner Garrey asked whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

**APPLICATION NO. 3737-09.** Aspen Contracting seeking to replace the aluminum siding with vinyl siding at 170 Hartford Avenue.

B. J. Shalas and James McElroy of Aspen Contracting, Inc. 161 Mill Street Berlin and Judi Safran of 170 Hartford Avenue appeared before the commission. Ms. Safran explained that the existing

aluminum siding was damaged in the tornado and would like to replace it with vinyl. The siding will be in Wicker with a 4" reveal and the corner posts to match. The trim will be wrapped in white aluminum and the shutters will be black.

Commissioner Garrey asked whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

**APPLICATION NO. 3738-09. David** Guttchen seeking to install replacement windows and replace the front door at 27 Old Smithy Lane.

David Guttchen of 27 Old Smithy Lane appeared before the commission. Mr. Guttchen explained that he would like to replace the existing wood windows with a Harvey Tribute solid vinyl window with the muntins between the glass. Mr. Guttchen felt this was an appropriate material as his neighbor was allowed to install a Harvey vinyl window. Mr. Guttchen stated that if this material was not acceptable, his second choice would be the Harvey Majesty wood clad window. Mr. Guttchen would also like to replace the wood front door with a fiberglass door that matches the existing four (4) panel, (4) light pattern.

Commissioner Garrey asking whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

**APPLICATION NO. 3739-09.** Frank Deluca seeking to install replacement windows at 17 Hubbard Place.

Frank Deluca of 17 Hubbard Place and Matthew Gove of 70 Main Street appeared before the commission. Mr. Gove explained that Mr. Deluca currently has two windows on his enclosed front porch that open in to the porch. These windows are impractical and are a safety issue. He would like to replace the windows with a Windsor Pinnacle series double hung wood window to match the existing light pattern. The existing screens would remain and the dimensions of the windows would not change. These are the only windows being replaced.

Commissioner Garrey asking whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

**APPLICATION NO. 3740-09.** Matthew Gove seeking to replace the garage door at 70 Main Street.

Matthew Gove of 70 Main Street appeared before the commission. Mr. Gove stated that he would like to replace the existing garage door with a steel carriage style door. The windows would be straight and square and he would like to attach black hardware to match the carriage style.

Commissioner Garrey asking whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

**APPLICATION NO. 3741-09.** Leslie Waite seeking to amend application number 3724-09 to change the siding style at 235 Garden Street.

Leslie Waite of 235 Garden Street and Reno Denovelas of Magee Companies, 70 Cody Street West Hartford appeared before the commission. Ms. Waite explained that at the last meeting the commission approved her application to install Cedar Impressions vinyl siding and Ms. Waite favors a clapboard style siding. Ms. Waite explained her dissatisfaction with appearance of the shake style vinyl siding and would ultimately not be happy with the material on her house. Ms. Waite explained that her preference is still the Mastic clapboard siding and she would like to use it in the 5" reveal. She also presented the commission with many pictures of houses in the district which had a combination of shake and clapboard siding. Her second option would be to use a combination of the shake and clapboard in vinyl.

Commissioner O'Brien questioned if the homes she was presenting pictures of as examples were in the district and if they were wood sided. Ms. Waite agreed all the pictures presented were of wood sided house. Commissioner O'Brien reiterated that the commission is charged with maintaining the integrity of an evolving riverfront community.

Commissioner Raymond stated that Ms. Waite made an amazing argument for keeping wood on her house as all the pictures presented to the commission were those of houses with wood shakes and clapboard.

Commissioner Garrey asking whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application.

Richard and Kathleen Geltzer of 242 Garden Street spoke in favor of the application through written correspondence dated September 16, 2009.

Bruno Ranninello of 239 Garden Street spoke in favor of the application through written correspondence dated September 22, 2009.

Liz Huntington of 47 Elm Street spoke in favor of the application through written correspondence dated September 22, 2009.

Kate Ever of 18 Kenwood Street spoke in favor of the application through written correspondence dated September 20, 2009.

Joseph Ranniello of 12 Kenwood Street spoke in favor of the application through written correspondence dated September 22, 2009.

Commissioner Garrey asked whether there was anyone else wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

**APPLICATION NO. 3742-09.** Rich and Cindy Wasserman seeking to construct a 24'x40' barn at 33 Lincoln Road.

Cindy Wasserman and Ben Wasserman of 33 Lincoln Road and Bill Livingston of 74 Brussels Avenue appeared before the commission. Ms. Wasserman explained that her property is three (3) acres. After the tornado she lost a good portion of the trees on her land and now has a clear view to the Silas Deane Highway. She would like to construct a barn to obstruct this view and also to replace two (2)

outbuildings that were lost in the tornado. The barn will be 24'x40' with board and batten siding. The gutters and roofing will match what exists on the house. The windows will be true divided light wood and the doors will be wood. The lighting will be a standard "barn" style light.

Commissioner Garrey asking whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

**APPLICATION NO. 3743-09.** Linda Newell seeking to demolish and re-build the existing garage at 84 Broad Street.

Linda Newell of 84 Broad Street appeared before the commission. Ms. Newell explained that her garage was demolished by a tree in the tornado. She would like to replace the garage in the existing footprint which is 36'x31'. The original garage was built on a concrete pad and she would like to build a knee wall of 6" to add stability and to keep the siding away from the ground. The garage would be sided in vertical board. The windows on the original garage were home built. She would like to install Marvin wood windows to replicate what existed. The garage door will match what existed and no gutters will be installed. Ms. Newell would like to use an antique wood door on the back of the garage. The door would have a glass panel with wire mesh for security.

Commissioner Garrey asking whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

**APPLICATION NO. 3732-09.** James Pawlak seeking to construct an 8'x8' storage shed at 47 Church Street. (Tabled from the September 8, 2009 meeting. The last date to act is October 13, 2009.)

James Pawlak of 47 Church Street appeared before the commission. Commissioner Garrey stated that the commission needed to view the staked area for the proposed shed. There were no new questions for the applicant.

Commissioner Garrey asked whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

**APPLICATION NO. 3733-09.** Glenna White seeking to install vinyl siding and shutters at 56 Harmund Place. (Tabled from the September 8, 2009 meeting. The last date to act is October 13, 2009.)

Glenna White of 56 Harmund Place and Al Vestro of DiGiorgi Roofing and Siding, 719 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield appeared before the commission. Commissioner Garrey stated that the commission needed a chance to view the property again. There were no new questions for the applicant.

Commissioner Garrey asked whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

Upon motion by commissioner Maycock, seconded by commissioner Rell and a poll of the commission, it was voted to close the public hearing on all applications and open the public meeting.

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, O'Brien, Rell, Raymond

**APPLICATION NO. 3735-09.** Anthony and Ann Bascetta seeking to replace the existing fence with a 6' cedar panel fence at 36 Northbrick Lane.

Upon motion by commissioner Maycock, seconded by commissioner Raymond and a poll of the commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application with the following stipulation:

1. The fence shall be a 6' cedar straight fence with scalloped gates.

**Discussion**

Commissioner Raymond was in favor of the cedar material and does not think vinyl is an appropriate material for fencing in the district.

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, O'Brien, Rell, Raymond

**APPLICATION NO. 3736-09.** Aspen Contracting seeking to replace the aluminum siding with vinyl siding at 168 Hartford Avenue.

Upon motion by commissioner Maycock, seconded by commissioner O'Brien and a poll of the commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application with the following stipulations:

1. The siding shall be Mastic vinyl in Russet Red with a 4" reveal.
2. The corner posts shall be in Russet Red and the trim shall be in white.
3. The shutters shall be black.

**Discussion**

Commissioner O'Brien stated that the siding presented was not ideal. The aluminum that is currently on the home and the proposed vinyl are not ideal. The house is on a prominent street in the district.

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, Rell

Nay: O'Brien

Abstention: Raymond

**APPLICATION NO. 3737-09.** Aspen Contracting seeking to replace the aluminum siding with vinyl siding at 170 Hartford Avenue.

Upon motion by commissioner Maycock, seconded by commissioner Raymond and a poll of the commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application with the following stipulations:

1. The siding shall be Mastic vinyl in Wicker with a 4" reveal.
2. The corner posts shall be in Wicker and the trim shall be in white.
3. The shutters shall be black.

**Discussion**

Commissioner O'Brien reiterated that the siding presented was not ideal. The aluminum that is currently on the home and the proposed vinyl are not ideal. The house is on a prominent street in the district.

Commissioner Garrey also stated the siding was not ideal but the house does currently have aluminum siding so the change is not drastic.

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, Rell

Nay: O'Brien

Abstention: Raymond

**APPLICATION NO. 3738-09. David** Guttchen seeking to install replacement windows and replace the front door at 27 Old Smithy Lane.

Upon motion by commissioner O'Brien, seconded by commissioner Raymond and a poll of the commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application with the following stipulation:

1. The windows shall be Harvey Majesty simulated divided light with muntins permanently affixed to the exterior and shall match the existing light patterns.

**Discussion**

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, O'Brien, Rell, Raymond

**APPLICATION NO. 3739-09.** Frank Deluca seeking to install replacement windows at 17 Hubbard Place.

Upon motion by commissioner Garrey, seconded by commissioner Rell and a poll of the commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application as submitted.

**Discussion**

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, O'Brien, Rell, Raymond

**APPLICATION NO. 3740-09.** Matthew Gove seeking to replace the garage door at 70 Main Street.

Upon motion by commissioner Maycock, seconded by commissioner O'Brien and a poll of the commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application with the following stipulation:

1. The hardware shall be two (2) handles and four (4) hinges in black.

**Discussion**

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, O'Brien, Rell, Raymond

**APPLICATION NO. 3741-09.** Leslie Waite seeking to amend application number 3724-09 to change the siding style at 235 Garden Street.

Upon motion by commissioner O'Brien, seconded by commissioner Maycock and a poll of the commission, it was voted to DENY the application.

**Discussion**

Commissioner Raymond stated that the applicant made the best argument for keeping the wood cedar shakes. The house is on a prominent street and is a fine example of the Hubbard style house.

Commissioner Gary stated that Cedar Impressions has been used successfully in the district.

Commissioner O'Brien stated that the applicant should keep the wood cedar shakes. She does not feel that vinyl is appropriate on the house. The house is in a prominent location.

Commissioner Maycock stated the applicant made the best argument for maintaining the wood.

Commissioner Rell stated the combination of vinyl clapboard and shakes would detract from the home's appearance.

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, O'Brien, Rell, Raymond

**APPLICATION NO. 3742-09.** Rich and Cindy Wasserman seeking to construct a 24'x40' barn at 33 Lincoln Road.

Upon motion by commissioner O'Brien, seconded by commissioner Raymond and a poll of the commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application as submitted.

**Discussion**

Commissioner O'Brien said it was an excellent application and a wonderful addition to the district.

Aye: Garrey, O'Brien, Rell, Raymond      Abstention: Maycock

**APPLICATION NO. 3743-09.** Linda Newell seeking to demolish and re-build the existing garage at 84 Broad Street.

Upon motion by commissioner O'Brien, seconded by commissioner Maycock and a poll of the commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application as submitted.

**Discussion**

Commissioner O'Brien again commented on an excellent application and she was appreciative of the applicant maintaining as much of the original character of the garage as possible and also re-using materials from the period.

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, O'Brien, Rell, Raymond

**APPLICATION NO. 3732-09.** James Pawlak seeking to construct an 8'x8' storage shed at 47 Church Street.

Upon motion by commissioner Maycock, seconded by commissioner O'Brien and a poll of the commission, it was voted to DENY the application.

**Discussion**

Commissioner O'Brien stated the site is already over massed.

Commissioner Garrey stated he has no issues with storage sheds but in this case there would be too much massing on the property.

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, O'Brien, Rell, Raymond

**APPLICATION NO. 3733-09.** Glenna White seeking to install vinyl siding and shutters at 56 Harmund Place.

Upon motion by commissioner Maycock, seconded by commissioner Garrey and a poll of the commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application with the following stipulations:

1. The siding shall be vinyl Monogram Certain Teed in the color Sterling Grey and shall be 4" double lap.
2. The trim shall be 4" in the color Granite Grey.
3. All other trim shall be in the color Granite Grey

**Discussion**

Commissioner O'Brien stated that the existing siding is wood and vinyl is not an appropriate replacement. She stated that too much vinyl is being approved in the district and detracts from the commission's charge of maintain the integrity of an evolving river front community.

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, Rell, Raymond

Nay: O'Brien

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF: September 8, 2009**

Upon motion by commissioner Maycock, seconded by commissioner Rell and a poll of the commission the minutes of the September 8, 2009 meeting were approved without objection.

Aye: Garry, Maycock, Rell

Abstention: O'Brien, Raymond

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Public comments on general matters of the Historic District**

Linda Newell of 84 Broad Street encouraged the commission not to approve vinyl siding in place of original wood siding. She felt it is changing the character of the district. She also does not encourage the approval of vinyl clad windows. She has found that the vinyl peels off and the wood is exposed. She understands that replacing wood siding is expensive but encourages home owners to consider replacing one side per year just as some paint one side of the house per year in order to stay within budget.



**Report of the Historic District Coordinator**

Kristin Stearley reported that a fire at 7 River Road has destroyed the garage. The Chief Building Official has condemned the building and it had to be demolished immediately because it posed a serious safety risk. Ms. Stearley reminded the commission that the Chief Building Official has the authority to approve demolition in emergency cases without commission approval.

Ms. Stearley also announced that she has completed the interviews for the new Recording Secretary and should have a decision by the end of the week.

**Correspondence**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion by Commissioner Raymond, seconded by commissioner Maycock and a poll of the commission, it was unanimously voted to ADJOURN the meeting at 9:19 PM.

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, O'Brien, Rell, Raymond

Respectfully Submitted  
TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

John Maycock  
Clerk Pro Tem